

ORIGINAL

CITY OF ROCKVILLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF

ELECTIONS

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

POST-ELECTION FORUM

Thursday, February 4, 2016

1 PARTICIPANTS:

2 Board Members:

3 LOIS NEUMAN, Chair

4 GRAHAM JOHNSON

5 CAROL MILLMAN

6 STEPHEN WEINER

7 Speakers:

8 VIRGINIA ONLEY

9 JULIE PALAKOVICH KARR

10 BRIGITTA MULLIGAN

11 BERYL FEINBERG

12 DREW POWELL

13 DAVID HILL

14 LAURA REAMS

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## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MS. NEUMAN: We're glad to have you all  
3 with us. Welcome to our 2015 post-election forum.  
4 First let me introduce the members of the Board of  
5 Supervisors of Elections. Graham Johnson, Carol  
6 Millman and Stephen Weiner and I'm Lois Neuman.  
7 The purpose of this session is to give the Board  
8 the opportunity to hear your comments about eh  
9 2015 election. The Board may ask you for  
10 information however there will be no dialogue and  
11 the Board will consider everything that you tell  
12 us. There will be a second post election meeting  
13 on February 6 from 10am to 12pm with the same  
14 format and you can certainly come again if you  
15 wish to. We ask that you turn off cell phones or  
16 set them to vibrate. Please use the sign up  
17 sheet; we're using it for attendance as well as if  
18 you wish to speak. The sign up sheet is in the  
19 back of the room. Each speaker will have a 5  
20 minute limit and can return for an additional 5  
21 minutes after all speakers conclude their remarks.  
22 The Clerk will set the time for five minutes and

1 you'll see the timer at the podium. The speaker  
2 should come to the podium to present, speak into  
3 the microphone and state your name. We ask that  
4 you submit written materials when you come to the  
5 podium and you're welcome to send us comments and  
6 please send them to the City Clerk by February 29  
7 and the email address if you wish to use that is  
8 cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov and I have no other  
9 things to say so I'm going to call the first  
10 speaker on the list and that is Brigitta Mulligan.  
11 Now you did not check off that you wish to speak  
12 do you wish to speak?

13 MS. MULLIGAN: Later.

14 MS. NEUMAN: Later. Beryl Feinberg is  
15 next on the list.

16 MS. FEINBERG: Later please I just raced  
17 here and I'm eating dinner.

18 MS. NEUMAN: Virginia Onley do you wish  
19 to speak?

20 MS. ONLEY: Thank you for having us this  
21 evening. My comments on the election and I didn't  
22 write anything but I certainly will put something

1 in writing since I am speaking. I thought the  
2 election went very well. I had a couple of  
3 questions as to whether we as Rockville can change  
4 some of our election practices. I think everyone  
5 knows that I was pummeled the whole campaign  
6 season and while I prevailed and proved that these  
7 were false accusations I would like to know can we  
8 do something? It seems that it has gotten to the  
9 municipal level now. It has always been at the  
10 national level and a little bit at the state level  
11 where people just throw out everything that they  
12 want to throw and I learned a new term this  
13 campaign season it's called dumb down, you've got  
14 to dumb them down is what they say. That means  
15 throw everything out there and there is somebody  
16 dumb enough to believe it. And so that's why we  
17 have people as an example still looking for  
18 President Barak Obama's birth certificate because  
19 the dumb down was he is not an American and he was  
20 not born in this country and he is a citizen of  
21 another country. My question and I don't expect  
22 you to have an answer tonight but I certainly like

1     Rockville elections to go back to what they used  
2     to be, cordial and honest and no mud slinging so  
3     to speak. I think it is important we are a town  
4     of people who have not practiced that in our  
5     election practices and I really would like to see  
6     us go back to elections the way they used to be.  
7     I ran three times, I lost the first two times that  
8     I ran and I certainly did not mud sling at the  
9     person who beat me by 51 votes. I was  
10    disappointed but there was no need to be  
11    unprofessional or rude or dishonest or practice  
12    any of those unprofessional practices and that is  
13    all I have to say.

14                 MS. NEUMAN: Thank you. Julie  
15    Palakovich Karr you are next on the list.

16                 MS. PALAKOVICH KARR: Good evening  
17    everyone. There are a few items that I wanted to  
18    bring to your attention and hope that perhaps the  
19    Board of Supervisors, of Elections can address  
20    these over the next couple of years before we're  
21    facing yet another election season. I have 5  
22    issues that I want to bring up that all have to do

1 with the city's election code. The first couple  
2 actually have to do with campaign finance  
3 reporting and as I know that you are all aware the  
4 list of items that is included in terms of how you  
5 report expenses includes things like telegrams but  
6 not websites or modern technology and I think the  
7 code just needs to be updated to reflect the types  
8 of tools and services that campaigns use in the  
9 modern era. Related to that I think some  
10 additional guidance for the campaign finance  
11 reports could be useful. In regards to how to  
12 report certain things say like fees that third  
13 party donation vendors say like pay pal collect,  
14 what is the standard way to report that on your  
15 campaign finance report. My third point has to  
16 actually do with social media. I don't think it  
17 has necessarily been an issue but I have noticed  
18 some inconsistencies in the last couple of  
19 elections in terms of how does one properly use an  
20 authority line when you're using social media so  
21 some official guidance from the city could be  
22 helpful there in terms of having an election code

1 reflect that. Fourth actually this was something  
2 that I believe I brought up during the last term  
3 when you all maybe about a year out before the  
4 election were looking at some changes to the  
5 election code having to do with providing voter  
6 registration forms to new renters. So having a  
7 requirement in code for landlords to provide that  
8 information to their new tenants just to help  
9 facilitate people updating their address or  
10 actually registering to vote if they didn't  
11 previously live in Maryland and lastly I think  
12 that there is an inconsistency in the city code in  
13 regards to state election law. The city code bars  
14 city employees from participating in elections but  
15 I believe that is actually inconsistent with state  
16 law. I haven't really had a chance to dig into  
17 that yet but I think that is a question that needs  
18 to be answered going forward in the future. Thank  
19 you for the opportunity to raise some of these  
20 issues and I know you all have a big work ahead  
21 of you over the next four years in terms of  
22 getting everything ship shape for the next



1 election so thank you.

2 MS. NEUMAN: And we want to thank you  
3 especially for your specifics, it is very useful.  
4 Next we have Colleen Reed.

5 MS. REED: My name is Colleen Reed. I  
6 was treasurer for my husband Clark Reed who was a  
7 City Council candidate. He is at an environment  
8 commission meeting tonight so he was not able to  
9 be here. We made some comments one just kind of a  
10 logistical thing about the campaign finance report  
11 when they are due to be filed Clark and I both got  
12 a separate paper copy of the campaign finance  
13 report. We lived at the same address and I always  
14 filled it out on the computer and printed it out  
15 so having those paper copies were a waste of  
16 paper. You could send an email or a letter and  
17 just give the link to find the campaign finance  
18 report. I appreciate the attention to detail but  
19 it was superfluous. Parts of the form are unclear  
20 so for instance in the most recent campaign  
21 finance report there was no way to really  
22 specifically indicate that we had closed bank

1 accounts or pay pal accounts. Sarah was always  
2 very helpful whenever I called to answer my  
3 questions but it was unclear and there was no  
4 instructions or no part in the form that really  
5 help me feel confident about where to indicate  
6 that. And then more broad comments one is  
7 certainly there was a discussion in the city I  
8 think that needs to be had about increasing voter  
9 turn out and that's a perennial issue. Julie's  
10 suggestion is fantastic in making sure the renters  
11 are informed and helped to register. I heard from  
12 a lot of folks when I knocked on doors that people  
13 who had adult children who had grown up in  
14 Rockville and had registered but have moved away  
15 and don't vote in Rockville should be cleared from  
16 our rolls. So if there is some way to find a way  
17 to weed those out it would probably be helpful.  
18 Certainly I mean there are probably thousands of  
19 names in that category and also just I think  
20 there's the some neighborhoods seem to do a really  
21 good job at alerting their neighborhoods that  
22 there's an election coming up. King Farm did a

1 good job. They had those signs around the  
2 neighborhood saying hey it's time to vote. But  
3 other neighborhoods I think could do a better job  
4 of making sure the whole neighborhood is aware of  
5 what is happening. And then Clark was one of the  
6 ones on Election Day who was on the second page of  
7 the ballot so I know that was a whole new think  
8 and an experiment with Maryland. But anything  
9 that could be done to kind of know that in advance  
10 and maybe head it off at the pass would be great.  
11 On the debates there were I know that the city  
12 chooses three to televise and I'm sure you have  
13 some very specific tips and tricks and maybe  
14 guidance for those entities that are hosting the  
15 debates but I found that some were really lacking  
16 especially the televised ones. For instance in  
17 one of the debates the moderator had a really hard  
18 time pronouncing all the names properly and got  
19 quite nervous should the moderator should make  
20 sure they can pronounce everybody's names. They  
21 should try not to string to many concepts together  
22 in one question when the candidate has a minute to

1     respond and asking questions that the City Council  
2     members have no purview over is really frustrating  
3     because then people might be frustrated about  
4     school issues but the city council has limited  
5     influence in that. And then trying to restrict  
6     the number of debates again in know the city  
7     doesn't have a lot of influence on that. A lot of  
8     neighborhood associations like to have their own  
9     debates and I know that's really helpful for the  
10    specific neighborhoods but it's an incredible  
11    amount of time for everybody here to prepare for  
12    those and dig down into the specific neighborhood  
13    issues was very challenging. One of the debates  
14    in particular I thought was the best of all the  
15    Woodley Gardens College Gardens one. The format  
16    was incredibly engaging and they had the  
17    candidates ask each other questions and they had  
18    very specific targeted well thought out questions  
19    that were relevant to the election so those are my  
20    comments at this moment, thank you.

21               MS. NEUMAN: Thank you and again thank  
22    you for being so specific. I'm going to ask if

1     you can fill in one of these. So Ms. Reed if you  
2     could fill your information in on that one I would  
3     greatly appreciate it. People that just came in  
4     we have a sign in sheet. Please indicate if you  
5     wish to speak. I'll go back to the top of the  
6     list. Brigitta Mulligan did you wish to speak?

7             MS. MULLIGAN: Sure I'll speak. I heard  
8     some of Virginia's issues and I heard some of  
9     Colleen's issues that actually I know you all  
10    can't have any control over and that's the  
11    debates. That is whole other ballgame and her  
12    complaints are legitimate but I know that's not in  
13    your purview. What I do know what's in your  
14    purview which I have issues with and that would  
15    echo what Julie said the spreadsheet. If you're a  
16    new treasurer oh my word my treasurer was so  
17    frustrated and I actually have some printouts of  
18    what it looks like when you print these things on  
19    a different printer. One page will end up being  
20    in two pages and so I constantly had to work with  
21    my treasurer and reformat and delete lines to make  
22    it come out and I think that something should

1     populate like the page number and should be  
2     populated like sometimes when you put your account  
3     name it should populate all the pages on the  
4     spreadsheet. I didn't write anything down and I  
5     think I might follow up on some issues but I  
6     really wanted to kind of hear what other people  
7     had to say because I didn't want to repeat  
8     anything. During the election there were some  
9     complaints at some of the polling places and I  
10    went to all 10 poling places twice and I couldn't  
11    figure out why there was a complaint because I  
12    never heard it when I went so that was kind of  
13    alarming for me. I want to make a positive that  
14    the early voting was fantastic. I was here for  
15    the two days and people just loved it. As far as  
16    people knowing if there's an election it's a big  
17    issue. Again that is not in your purview the city  
18    did everything that they're required to do. I  
19    think the candidates have a responsibility and to  
20    be honest with you having delivered almost eight  
21    thousand door hangers it was very disturbing to  
22    see the poor turnout. I think that the 15 per

1 cent turnout was very bad and I'm looking forward  
2 to looking at the database to see exactly who  
3 voted and if my mailing had any impact on those  
4 who voted. I might make some more comments on  
5 Saturday but the spreadsheet is a real issue.  
6 Some of the issues that were brought up here were  
7 not in your purview and I would like to see the  
8 spreadsheet be earlier. As a candidate I took 6  
9 months to campaign and because we now have 4 year  
10 cycles I think you have more time to get things  
11 earlier out to candidates which I think would  
12 really help. I don't know how some people could  
13 just do the two months before but as you know I  
14 try to do it early because I try to go 6 months in  
15 advance so I was trying to use the spreadsheet. A  
16 couple of times I used it, it was still a draft it  
17 wasn't in final and then I tried to the final. So  
18 there were some issues with the spreadsheet and  
19 that can be frustrating for a new treasurer. So  
20 I'll be here Saturday again.

21 MS. NEUMAN: Before you sit down  
22 Brigitta can you give us any specifics in

1 relationship to the spreadsheet and any examples  
2 that you might have problems or your suggested  
3 solutions and how much of a lead time are you  
4 suggesting?

5 MS. MULLIGAN: For having the report  
6 available definitely by May.

7 MS. NEUMAN: May of what?

8 MS. MULLIGAN: The year of the election.  
9 The election is always in November. Julie brought  
10 up an issue about the PayPal. It was very  
11 frustrating to get a letter from you all asking me  
12 to amend my report when I had something in the  
13 other column under supplies and other and not on  
14 second page of that schedule which said other and  
15 then it was \$1.75 I put that in the second amended  
16 report, I had to amend the whole report, submit  
17 the whole thing, have my treasurer sign for that  
18 minor \$1.75. And then you sent me another letter  
19 saying I need to fill out the last page because of  
20 anything in column other you have to explain it.  
21 Well it was in the spreadsheet as PayPal fee and  
22 the name of the person and I found that to be very



1     disturbing to have to come back and do a third  
2     amended report to just say what other meant.  
3     Other was PayPal fee and the person's name and I  
4     thought that was very, very disappointing on my  
5     part having amended the same report for the third  
6     time. It looks bad when you amend, amend, amend  
7     you think oh somebody doesn't know what they're  
8     doing, something is wrong. So I kind of took it  
9     as a negative. I know it wasn't a negative for  
10    you all because you wanted to specifically go by  
11    those instructions. I think there needs to be a  
12    little leeway when you have something that minor  
13    and I have to say I'm disappointed. So I've  
14    giving you examples of what it looked like when  
15    you printed it on different printers and it has  
16    nothing to do with you all but you need to know  
17    how frustrating it can be for a new treasurer  
18    okay?

19                   MS. NEUMAN: Okay and if you could give  
20    that to Sara and we thank you very much. As you  
21    know if just editorialize for two seconds. We  
22    started with the campaign fund report we did a

1 major overhaul and we are very dependent upon your  
2 input as to what still needs attention so we are  
3 greatly appreciative for the detail you're giving  
4 us. Next would be Beryl Feinberg.

5 MS. FEINBERG: Thank you for the  
6 opportunity. Some of the comments that I had were  
7 similar but I'm going to focus on the campaign  
8 finance reports since that seems to be a theme.  
9 One I would like to echo exactly on the PayPal  
10 issue we had the same kind of feedback so it does.  
11 It feels very badly when you get that and you have  
12 been very, very transparent about the PayPal, the  
13 numbers are all adding up and the same issue as  
14 Brigitta is mentioning and it says go to other  
15 column and fill it out. It just seems like it's  
16 unnecessary for that type of thing. Also there was  
17 a change in dates and I can't remember if it was  
18 for the first or second report. The issue was the  
19 campaign notebooks that we received had one date  
20 for all the reports. Then is you went to the  
21 election meeting for candidates we got another  
22 list of dates, an amended list there. That makes

1     sense because that was later on in the election  
2     season that made perfect sense. You could easily  
3     replace the initial binder information that was  
4     perfect but then there was a change of dates again  
5     and you get letters telling you the new date.  
6     Please keep to the date. It gets very, very  
7     difficult with everything going on simultaneously  
8     to get changes in dates. So I would ask that you  
9     would please whatever dates you decide on keep to  
10    them. The other is how in kind is handled and  
11    specifically some of us in the very last report  
12    included very transparently and in kind  
13    contribution and then there was an email very  
14    recently that I saw that said we didn't need to  
15    include that in kind. We were trying to be ultra  
16    transparent and I think in a good way so I'm  
17    hoping that none of us are going to be zinged and  
18    told you have it in the wrong column because we  
19    didn't even have to include that in our report.  
20    So please I ask that we get a little more guidance  
21    on that. Moving from that something for you to  
22    please look at it didn't involve me but I know

1    there was concern about the use of the city seal.  
2    It is something perhaps to look at. I know some  
3    of the campaign materials include it. I know  
4    there was a lot of concern about it so if there  
5    can be a little more guidance or if it can be  
6    discussed at the campaign orientation that you  
7    have. Similar to the comment about the ballot and  
8    on the page 2 alphabetically I understand that may  
9    be corrected that's a programming issue but it was  
10   really unfortunate for those candidates and I know  
11   it was brought to your attention but I want to  
12   echo that that's something hopefully that can be  
13   changed because it shouldn't be that wherever you  
14   are in the alphabet you have to go to page 2. I  
15   know the instructions are there but not everybody  
16   reads instructions unfortunately. Last item is  
17   the turnaround time if anybody has to make a  
18   correction. I know I absolutely panicked when I  
19   got it over the Thanksgiving break and people were  
20   out of town. Until we receive it there is a time  
21   lag from when you all write your letters until we  
22   receive them in the mail and that is a normal lag

1 time. That just happens until they get out. But  
2 then giving us over a Thanksgiving weekend to  
3 receive it on the Wednesday night and saying it is  
4 due Monday is just really I thought was over the  
5 top and I panicked because my treasurer was out of  
6 town. So I ask you to please look at that when  
7 you ask for an amendment that's fine that's your  
8 privilege but then look at the time and include in  
9 your time when you're drafting your letters until  
10 we receive them, thank you.

11 MS. NEUMAN: Thank you. Drew Powell?

12 MR. POWELL: Hi I'm Drew Powell. I just  
13 have a few very specific items here I'd like to go  
14 through in no particular order. One was and I  
15 believe I mentioned this during the election  
16 itself but the way that the scanner reads the  
17 sheet and when you bubble it and drop it in the  
18 scanner some people might want to have a warm  
19 fuzzy feeling that the scanner is reading their  
20 ballot correctly and a possible solution to this  
21 would be to have maybe a station that has a  
22 scanner that simply displays who you voted for,

1 for 5 seconds. It wouldn't print anything out you  
2 could just see it and that way you'd have a warm  
3 fuzzy feeling that your ballot was filled out  
4 properly and the people you were voting for the  
5 system would register correctly for whoever wanted  
6 to do that with the little scanning station. As  
7 you know for many years I've been a big stickler  
8 for a much more robust chapter 8 that I would  
9 personally like to see the City of Rockville adopt  
10 the state election code and modify it of course to  
11 suit Rockville. There are so many definitions and  
12 terms be it in kind contributions what have you  
13 that are defined and it is already done for you  
14 and when it comes to a precedence in this kind of  
15 matters it has already been done and I would love  
16 to see the City of Rockville adopt the state code  
17 on that and then modify it appropriately in the  
18 appropriate areas in terms of maximum  
19 contributions and things like that. As far as  
20 enhancing the packet as well we heard about things  
21 like the seal I'd like to see the packet, expand  
22 that just a little bit to include things like

1 slogans. We had an issue as you know during the  
2 election that a slogan was used and there was some  
3 controversy in terms of which came first the city  
4 using it or the candidate using it and I do  
5 believe the candidate used this particular slogan  
6 first and then the city used it. But the bottom  
7 line is what is to stop a candidate from using a  
8 city slogan lets say or vice versa and just have  
9 that set forward in the packet I think would be a  
10 good idea that basically says that candidates  
11 should not be using city slogans in their  
12 literature and advising the city of course that  
13 would probably be a good idea for the city not to  
14 use candidate slogans. So keep those separate  
15 because it is a little disconcerting to see a  
16 debate and have one of the candidate's slogans  
17 doing the crawl across the top of the screen  
18 during a debate and we actually had that situation  
19 in this election season. As far as the debates  
20 themselves are concerned there is no way in the  
21 world to legislate or regulate the number of  
22 debates. I mean various homeowner associations

1    what have you are going to want to have a debate  
2    and the candidate can decline or not to be a part  
3    of that debate but I'd sure like to see the city  
4    kind of narrow things down to maybe one televised  
5    debate as opposed to three. I don't know if the  
6    city should be in the business of televising three  
7    debates. One of the things I'd also like to see  
8    if more clarity on jurisdictional issues. There  
9    were several occasions where complaints were made  
10   including by myself where it was not clear at all  
11   at least initially as to who to bring the issue  
12   to. Does someone need to bring the issue to the  
13   Board of elections, does someone need to bring the  
14   issue to the city manager, who was the  
15   jurisdictional responsibility and along those  
16   lines I'm a little surprised that first of all I'm  
17   delighted that our City Clerk is here tonight of  
18   course but that other representatives of the city  
19   wouldn't be here if because of this kind of an  
20   issue. When it comes to jurisdictional issues  
21   there are many cases where you all said well this  
22   isn't our affair this is the city manager and this



1 kind of thing and it made it very unclear in terms  
2 of what one should do if there's a complaint that  
3 involves either this body, the city or combination  
4 of the two and I'd like to see you all make those  
5 lines a little clearer in terms of where people  
6 should go and what they should do and how they  
7 should file complaints and that kind of thing.  
8 One last thing I'd like to see and again this is a  
9 city issue and this is why I'd like the city to be  
10 here as well but if you all could recommend  
11 strongly to the city that all reports, all  
12 campaign finance reports stay online. I mean what  
13 does it cost to keep a campaign finance report  
14 from last year or from two years ago or two years  
15 before that what does it cost to keep those online  
16 just leave them up. Just keep them archived so  
17 that anybody can go and look at archived reports  
18 if they choose to do so, thank you.

19 MS. NEUMAN: Thank you very much. There  
20 are a few people here from Hyattsville that we  
21 would like to welcome. Greta Mosher and Laura  
22 Reams and Lily Lilford and we are delighted to

1 have you with us. We've done some talking and  
2 sharing and outreach with some of the other  
3 jurisdictions and we're delighted that you're  
4 here. Next we have David Hill.

5 MR. HILL: Good evening I'm David Hill  
6 and I was one of the candidates. First of all I'd  
7 like to thank you all for running a very good  
8 election and a remarkable job on getting Judges to  
9 fill in at the last minute and getting all the  
10 polling places lined up. I think operationally it  
11 was a very well done effort. I'm going to mention  
12 a bunch of things. It's going to sound like a  
13 litany of negative things but I think you're  
14 interested in improving the process and that's  
15 what this is about so I'll cut to those items but  
16 I did want to open with a general positive thing.  
17 I'm going to go from what I thought were little  
18 issues to bigger issues and finish with the bigger  
19 issues. One of the things I ran into was out at  
20 King Farm the signage on election day was kind of  
21 arbitrarily almost twice the distance that's  
22 required by state law and not only was the signage

1 removed that was in that distance but it was  
2 disposed of and I don't believe that is the  
3 intention either. I had marked off that signage  
4 was well 30 to 40 feet beyond that signage and  
5 lost quite a few signs out there because of where  
6 the election judges that morning decided they  
7 would basically fit it into the landscape and that  
8 needs to be clarified.

9 MS. NUEMAN: Mr. Hill would you repeat  
10 who removed the signs?

11 MR. HILL: I don't know who removed the  
12 signs I was not actually there when it happened  
13 but we had put those out very early in the morning  
14 and they were gone by the time the poles opened  
15 there.

16 MS. NEUMAN: Okay thank you.

17 MR. HILL: I assume it was the election  
18 judges. Early voting went really well except I  
19 was here on Saturday morning and the privacy of  
20 early voting was seriously flawed. As I was  
21 voting people were walking around behind me, it  
22 was not a secret ballot at all and that was my one

1 concern there. There has been mention about  
2 randomizing names on the ballot and the fact you  
3 had to scroll to other people's names and that was  
4 a consistent biased against them I think is a very  
5 serious problem with the ballot but as a larger  
6 issue I'd like to sort of mention that the ballot  
7 design remains locked on to paper administration.  
8 A part of that is what we mail and when you want  
9 to see it consistent but we're using electronic  
10 machines now and in fact there is often a concern  
11 of where you fall alphabetically as biased among  
12 candidates itself and the electronic machines give  
13 us the perfect solution to that which is to  
14 randomize the ballot for everyone all the time.  
15 So any biased that does appear is at least evenly  
16 distributed and everyone bears the same risk of  
17 that bias. I think we should be thinking about  
18 moving to that as we have electronic  
19 administration and the public is used to  
20 interactive electronic machines. Financial  
21 reporting I'll mention just a couple of things  
22 real quick I also having the columns not aligned

1 on form 2. The first page of that had one order  
2 of columns and the second page had a different  
3 order of columns made that hard to work with.  
4 Some of the categories are very arcane that show  
5 up on particularly the expense listing and some  
6 new things that are very common like website  
7 expenses it's really hard to say where those fit  
8 in among the arcane columns. I bet what you got is  
9 almost a scatter shot by candidates trying to put  
10 them in where they thought it was reasonable. In  
11 kind contributions are very awkward and I  
12 appreciate you changed the form soon after the  
13 filing date. I never got an explanation of how  
14 the form changed so I had worked out of my first  
15 filing how that form worked and by the second time  
16 I made the second filing it had changed and that  
17 didn't function and that proved to be a problem in  
18 my campaign. I would suggest trying to  
19 standardize the loans to self and contributions  
20 because most of the candidates made very  
21 substantial loans to themselves and have not paid  
22 them back in their final form so it really isn't a

1 loan anymore. One of the candidates has made  
2 significant contributions to themselves and listed  
3 them only as contributions so it looks like they  
4 didn't actually give their own campaign money but  
5 they did, it's buried in the contributions. That  
6 I think deserves a little bit of standardizations  
7 of the public and understand what candidates are  
8 financing for themselves. Also probably a  
9 disclosure at the end to say this isn't just a  
10 loan if it's a loan that I never pay back and just  
11 give it to the campaign it really is a  
12 contribution in the end too. You may not know  
13 that until the end but that deserves a little bit  
14 of attention. I brought up an issue about signage  
15 on public property related to the forums. I got  
16 an interpretation from the city managers office  
17 that that's acceptable except when I challenged  
18 them to say what in the law says it's acceptable  
19 never got any connection to their interpretation  
20 to anything in the actual law book. It can go  
21 either way but it should be clear to exactly  
22 whether it's state law to that talks about signage

1 on public property and are we following it. On  
2 the financial disclosure I'd like to encourage you  
3 all to think about the policy behind the financial  
4 disclosure. What is the purpose of that  
5 disclosure in a small election and I would contend  
6 that there really are two. One is disclose the  
7 funding sources so you reveal where the backing is  
8 coming from different candidates and the second is  
9 to account for the income of the funds so that you  
10 can reveal fraud or prevent fraud from happening  
11 by diverting funds. When I think about those two  
12 purposes for the financial disclosure form I think  
13 you've got a much to complicated form for serving  
14 those two purposes and you might want to think  
15 about that. Also I would really encourage you to  
16 think about some sort of electronic submission of  
17 those forms. It seems silly to have to print that  
18 out, get ink signed on paper and then walk it into  
19 City Hall when the form is already electronic and  
20 we can come up with Verisign. I just went through  
21 a house sale where almost all transaction happened  
22 by electronic signatures on things that moved

1 electronically. If we can transact that amount of  
2 money I think we can deal with the veracity of  
3 signatures on campaign finance forms. The last  
4 thing I want to mention there were a couple of  
5 pretty grievous things that happened in this  
6 election and I appreciate that you don't control  
7 this but I want to mention them because it think  
8 they are the worst things that happened in the  
9 election. There was mention of the abuse of the  
10 city seal. I think the description of the city  
11 seal is just fine in the materials that we  
12 received it just wasn't followed. It's very clear  
13 that it's not permissible to use it on campaign  
14 material and that sort of thing but what that  
15 might suggest is that making two verbose a  
16 candidate package may actually work against people  
17 following the rules because they can't figure out  
18 what it is they're trying to follow in the process  
19 or when the time comes it is to hard to find the  
20 reference they need in the expediency of the  
21 moment.

22 MS. NEUMAN: So you feel the package is



1 to big and you want some things removed from that?

2 MR. HILL: I'm just suggesting that as a  
3 thought. It needs to be targeted so that in the  
4 moment it can work as a reference it is not just a  
5 narrative for the candidates when they start but  
6 when you go back and want to say am I following  
7 the rules you got to be able to find the  
8 reference.

9 MS. NEUMAN: I would like to say that we  
10 thought we worked hard to do that. If it's not  
11 working that is a big issue and therefore we need  
12 to know where it's not working because we thought  
13 it was okay. So that is why we ask you here to  
14 tell us what's problematic so that we know  
15 otherwise we think it's okay. Thank you.

16 MR. HILL: I had no problem with it  
17 personally but I'm also used to dealing with city  
18 ordinance and things like that but apparently some  
19 of the candidates did have problems with it  
20 because they didn't follow rules.

21 MS. NEUMAN: Again the more specific the  
22 better because then we know what to go back to and

1     you've given some teeth to what you're talking  
2     about so we know what we're looking for when we're  
3     doing revisions and we will do revisions.

4             MR. HILL: I would mention that the use  
5     of the city seal was something that didn't work  
6     correctly but I found no problem with the  
7     reference it very clearly said in the materials  
8     what the policy is. I would point out that there  
9     was significant fraud in some of the signage in  
10    this election. Specifically the claim by one  
11    candidate as to what position she occupies now and  
12    that is probably not something that is governable  
13    by you but it's a fairly serious breech of the  
14    public trust. I would also point out to you that  
15    the one slate financial disclosure is out of  
16    balance by about \$1500 at this point. I looked at  
17    the final report for that and I imagine it has to  
18    do with confusion by that treasurer as to how to  
19    list the in kind contributions but it shows about  
20    \$9000 in contributions and shows about \$10500 in  
21    expenditures and never clarifies as to what that  
22    gap of \$1500 amounts to. I hope you'll follow up

1 with that financial report. The last thing that I  
2 think is a really serious issue that showed up in  
3 this election is question of libel. A campaign  
4 material that was mailed to almost every house in  
5 this city contained libel related to a private  
6 citizen that wasn't involved in the campaign. I  
7 make that distinction because there is a lot of  
8 rough and tumble that goes on in a campaign among  
9 the candidates. But I would suggest to you it was  
10 clearly out of bounds to impinge people not  
11 involved in the campaign and the process of doing  
12 this and the facts that were even presented in  
13 that were not just erroneous but they were  
14 presented in a way to appear to be truthful when  
15 in fact they weren't. The 5 year term of the  
16 public official involved clearly gave lie to the  
17 fact that what was being cited was not accurate  
18 but it was presented to the public as a damage to  
19 someone's reputation that was not involved in the  
20 election and I think that is a very serious  
21 problem. That's all I have.

22 MS. NEUMAN: Thank you very much

1 especially again for your detail it is very  
2 helpful. At this point does anyone else have  
3 anything you wish to say or say again? Yes go  
4 ahead.

5 MS. FEINBERG: Thank you Beryl Feinberg  
6 I had forgotten one thing and that was the issue  
7 of district 7 the new district polling place. I  
8 think there were some issues surrounding it number  
9 one that it is in district 8, I believe its number  
10 8 you can correct if I'm wrong but I think that  
11 caused some confusion for people when they looked  
12 at the map and there was some confusion with the  
13 website about where to go. I know you tried very,  
14 very hard to find a new polling place I understand  
15 that and I know some places that many of us had  
16 suggested didn't work out and couldn't work out  
17 but now that you have almost 4 years can we try  
18 again to try and find some other place that's not  
19 in another district. So it was just the issue of  
20 district 7 and where to put it. I just ask that  
21 we relook at that because it didn't work to well  
22 and the parking was an issue there too, thanks.

1 MS. NEUMAN: Anyone else have more  
2 thoughts they wish to share?

3 MS. REED: Colleen Reed. On the  
4 campaign summary sheet what I found a bit  
5 confusing at the very end when I did the third  
6 report I wanted to look and say okay what is the  
7 bottom line and I had a hard time the bottom  
8 section asks for I mean it was hard to get a sense  
9 of income versus expenses and loans and have a  
10 really nice snapshot of what someone brought in  
11 and that is very clear on the top which someone  
12 spent which is very clear in the middle, what  
13 someone might have loaned themselves but then at  
14 the bottom where it asks for the balance in the  
15 different accounts there were a couple of reports  
16 where we had just written a check and it hadn't  
17 been cleared yet. So when I put the balance of  
18 our account it looked like we had more money than  
19 we had so if someone were just looking at that and  
20 not digging into the report it would be hard to  
21 get a good sense of where the bottom line so that  
22 was one comment I had about the summary sheet. And

1 I second David's comments about the smooth and I  
2 love that the city was so forth right and  
3 assertive about telling everybody about the  
4 election and making sure everybody in whatever  
5 format was possible. Making those fun videos and  
6 people that were paying attention were deluged but  
7 lots of people just somehow had no clue so that's  
8 the big challenge. But all the work that was done  
9 to make this successful we appreciate very much,  
10 thank you.

11 MS. NEUMAN: Thank you and again to all  
12 the candidates as well. Any other thoughts or  
13 additional suggestions you have for 2019, anything  
14 else that strikes you that can be changed from the  
15 existing or what you would like to see in 2019  
16 that would be helpful to candidates, yes please.

17 MS. PALAKOVICH KARR: Julie here.  
18 Actually what Ms. Reed was just saying about in  
19 terms of timing of transactions I found an issue  
20 with that myself in terms of contributions had  
21 been made in PayPal but hadn't been transferred to  
22 the bank account yet or hadn't cleared the bank

1 account yet and so I know on one of my reports it  
2 was a little unclear to me and my treasurer in  
3 terms of how to handle a situation like that.  
4 Again I think a lot of the campaigns do use PayPal  
5 so having an idea of what to do there. I actually  
6 will also support Mr. Hill's recommendation about  
7 randomizing the order of the names. That's  
8 something that I've been thinking about. I'm  
9 actually hoping the Mayor and counsel is going to  
10 take up a larger set of election reforms this term  
11 and hope that to be one of them. I realize a lot  
12 of it will do with whatever system we have in 2019  
13 but I do think that that is a good idea going  
14 forward. It is very nice to hear from someone at  
15 the beginning of the alphabet supporting it and  
16 it's not just me who is towards the bottom saying  
17 that.

18 MS. NEUMAN: Do you have any suggestion  
19 as to how to randomize the names?

20 MS. PALAKOVICH KARR: I think as Mr.  
21 Hill was saying if it ends up being an electronic  
22 system every single ballot would be randomized.

1 If we're still on paper I still think you could  
2 randomize it before it gets printed on the paper  
3 ballot.

4 MS. NEUMAN: So just do it  
5 electronically so it's strictly random?

6 MR. HILL: At the risk of making this an  
7 advertisement you have a company called Westat  
8 here in the city that will do this excellently for  
9 you. We do surveys all over the country and the  
10 world and this is a standard part of our practice  
11 to avoid bias within response categories.

12 MS. NEUMAN: Well it is interesting to  
13 listen to the will of this public as to what kinds  
14 of things you might find of interest, useful, that  
15 you would like to see explored and so if that is  
16 something that the people would be interested in  
17 then we would go looking for whatever we have to  
18 look for.

19 MR. HILL: I think the key to it on a  
20 general scope is to find ways to take advantage of  
21 what the technology gives you. Continuity in  
22 elections is very important and how the public



1 interacts with it but new technologies and new  
2 presentations give us opportunities that we didn't  
3 have before, sometimes problems we didn't have  
4 before. By embracing electronic machines we're  
5 embracing the problems. Lets look at ways to make  
6 opportunities balance that and randomization of  
7 names all the time would be one way to really  
8 address a problem that exists on paper and it  
9 should be a fair playing field for everyone.

10 MS. NEUMAN: But remember we need to  
11 have the will of the people, the public of  
12 Rockville so that we can throw out all these  
13 esoteric, interesting possible ideas but if the  
14 public does not support that then it is another  
15 issue.

16 MR. HILL: Of course and we rely on your  
17 judgment as the Board of Supervisors of Elections  
18 to decide when the time and what should be done.

19 MS. NEUMAN: Thank you.

20 MS. PALAKOVICH KARR: One thing I'll add  
21 in terms of the randomization is there is probably  
22 not a need to reinvent the wheel here. I think

1    there are other jurisdictions that do randomize  
2    names on the ballot. I'm not sure in Maryland  
3    that is the case or not but there's probably  
4    others.

5                   MS. NEUMAN: Right I understand the  
6    question is is this something the City of  
7    Rockville would want. Some people are strong  
8    traditionalists as we all know.

9                   MS. MULLIGAN: Brigitta Mulligan again.  
10   I do want add a couple of things that were said  
11   and just want to reiterate. David Hill mentioned  
12   something about submitting these campaign finance  
13   reports electronically and I'm all with him and I  
14   tell you I'm dealing with a legal issue in  
15   Sarasota and the lawyers have accepted emails from  
16   five people who were supposed to sign an  
17   agreement. So if lawyers can accept electronic  
18   signatures I would think we could go to that at  
19   some point and that would solve us with our  
20   printing problems. I know it means the city would  
21   have to print it but maybe they won't have to  
22   print it if it's electronic there until it is

1 given to you all, I guess that is when it has to  
2 be printed. I really do I stress that we should  
3 be able to submit it to the city electronically.  
4 The other issue is well there's two more. The in  
5 kind issue as you all know was one that was very  
6 confusing to me because some of us got a letter  
7 from an individual who expended money to endorse  
8 us by a neighborhood letter which I did not  
9 approve the amount of money. My thing is how do  
10 you deal with someone out there doing some sort of  
11 endorsement of a candidate without getting prior  
12 approval? To me I think it is very wrong for me  
13 to have to accept an expenditure that I didn't  
14 approve. So that's an issue and I don't know how  
15 you control that but I don't think I'm responsible  
16 to report something that I did not approve.

17 MS. NEUMAN: That's why it is so  
18 important that we hear the details from all of you  
19 because there are some things we are not aware of  
20 and we don't become aware until you let us know.

21 MS. MULLIGAN: That one was totally out  
22 of I mean really hit me. I mean it was no problem

1 reporting it but there's that you have control of  
2 some things and some things you don't. I was  
3 surprised that if you violated some election  
4 policy that there was no consequences. That is  
5 something I guess it wasn't in your code it was in  
6 a policy so maybe that policy should be a code.  
7 Another concern was money, finance report. What I  
8 learned in this election was you know what maybe I  
9 don't need to do any fundraising I can put all my  
10 \$40000 and run my own election and not worry about  
11 how much money anyone gives me. That is kind of  
12 flawed to me. So maybe there should be a limit to  
13 how much an individual can give to a campaign but  
14 I guess nationally there isn't but anyway I just  
15 found it strange that you know what it is a lot  
16 easier to go just put all my money in and not  
17 start 6 months in advance to do fundraising. It  
18 is just an issue I thought I'd bring out because I  
19 never noticed it before, thank you.

20 MS. NEUMAN: Is there anything else  
21 anyone has think past and future.

22 MR. POWELL: Drew Powell again. I was

1 going to say that if you don't make any changes to  
2 the ballot thing and the randomization thing by  
3 2019 or even if you do perhaps you could send  
4 copies either electronically or in the mail  
5 whatever to the candidates to let them preview  
6 what the ballot is going to look like. The early  
7 voting day ballot and the election ballot and if  
8 there are any issues they could go wait a minute  
9 I'm on page 2 this isn't okay so they don't find  
10 out about it on the election day, thanks.

11 MS. NEUMAN: All right we have Saturday  
12 again if you think of anything else. Would our  
13 guests like to share anything or their thoughts  
14 with their election or anything?

15 MS. REAMS: My name is Laura Reams. I  
16 am the City Clerk for City of Hyattsville so again  
17 thank you very much for inviting us we appreciate  
18 it. We are in the midst of working on our 2017  
19 election which will happen in May 2017 and we're  
20 really here to learn. I think it is wonderful  
21 that you guys hold this forum and it is certainly  
22 and idea that we may take to our city as well.

1 We're looking at implementing many new things in  
2 our city. We've done some new and innovative  
3 things over the last year. We lowered our voting  
4 age and that was an exciting challenge for us and  
5 we're looking at doing some interesting new things  
6 that perhaps you guys already do I believe same  
7 day registration so we're hoping that we can learn  
8 from you and I appreciate you guys inviting us so  
9 thank you.

10 MS. NEUMAN: Anything else?

11 MR. JOHNSON: I would just like to  
12 reiterate something that was said earlier. A lot  
13 of you have had very useful comments but the more  
14 specific you can be is to the concerns you have  
15 and your suggestions on how that issue can be  
16 resolved the better it will make us. You may have  
17 some very good ideas on how to address a  
18 particular concern that has been raised and that  
19 would really help us to see moving forward. We  
20 don't pretend that we have a solution to all the  
21 problems that you've presented tonight.

22 MS. NEUMAN: Remember as your thinking

1 through you certainly can send something come  
2 Saturday if you've thought through something else  
3 and if you want to turn something in, in writing  
4 just send it to the City Clerk we will get it and  
5 we will address it and we will get back to you.  
6 It may take us a little bit of deliberation but  
7 we'll certainly do our best to come up with some  
8 kind of a solution. Our efforts are designed to  
9 be helpful, useful, and affective for the citizens  
10 of Rockville and for all of you that run for  
11 office and for all of the voters. So we need to  
12 know if we're meeting our mark and if we're not as  
13 Graham pointed out then we need you to help us do  
14 that by giving us your input because we think  
15 we're doing a good thing. We think we've solved  
16 the problem. We took care of in kind, we defined  
17 it, we gave examples, we tracked it all the way  
18 through, we gave you numbers, we showed you where  
19 to put the numbers and it still doesn't exactly  
20 capture everything that you need. So then you  
21 need to help us in terms of okay this part worked  
22 but this part is still thorny. We'll take it on

1 but if you give us some guidance that will be  
2 extremely helpful. Otherwise we're going to come  
3 out with another product that is going to be just  
4 as frustrating or maybe a little less so and that  
5 is certainly not our intention. So again the more  
6 detail the better. So it is 8:01 is there anymore  
7 comments? Then we'll end this session and if you  
8 choose to come on Saturday we welcome you and we  
9 look forward to hearing from you both spoken word  
10 and written word. Thank you.

11 (Whereupon, the HEARING was  
12 adjourned.)

13 \* \* \* \* \*



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